

RemarksI. Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected certain claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. With respect to claim 3, the Examiner indicated that it is unclear whether Applicants intent to claim the combination of the keyboard tray and bracketing mechanism or the subcombination of the keyboard tray. Applicants are claiming the keyboard tray in claims 3, 4, 14, 15, 18 and 21. The references to the bracket mechanism in the preamble of claim 1, for example, are provided as a basis against which certain directions can be described in that and later claims. As for the rejections of claim 27, that claim has been amended to remove the bases in the claims for the rejection.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner confirmed the allowability of claims 2, 3 through 5, 13 through 16, 20, 21 and 27, provided that they overcame any applicable rejection under section 112, above, and that they were amended to expressly include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Applicants note that by amending these claims, Applicants are not narrowing the claims (which already included the limitations of the claims from which they depended), and therefore are not surrendering any subject matter by virtue of the amendment.

III. Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If a telephonic interview with the Applicants' undersigned representative would be of assistance in resolving any outstanding matters in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 651-733-6750.

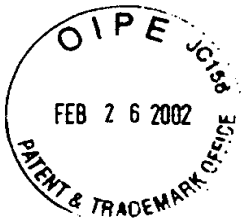
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Respectfully submitted,

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PENDING CLAIMS MARKED TO SHOW AMENDMENTS

2. (Amended) [The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 1] An adjustable keyboard tray for use with a center mount bracketing mechanism that is secured to and translates in and out from a horizontal surface, the adjustable keyboard tray comprising:

a top plate made of polymeric material;

a bottom plate made of polymeric material that is secured to the top plate by ultrasonic welding; and

a mounting plate that secures the adjustable keyboard tray to the bracketing mechanism, wherein the mounting plate is secured to the bottom plate of the adjustable keyboard tray in a recessed mounting area to maintain a substantially smooth outer surface along the bottom plate.

3. (Amended) [The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 1] An adjustable keyboard tray for use with a center mount bracketing mechanism that is secured to and translates in and out from a horizontal surface, the adjustable keyboard tray comprising:

a top plate made of polymeric material;

a bottom plate made of polymeric material that is secured to the top plate by ultrasonic welding; and

a mounting plate that secures the adjustable keyboard tray to the bracketing mechanism, wherein the mounting plate is secured to the adjustable keyboard tray by a retaining bracket, such that the adjustable keyboard tray can slide in a lateral direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of translation by the bracketing mechanism.

4. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 3, wherein the retaining bracket is mounted to a recessed mounting area formed along a bottom surface of the bottom plate creating a channel therebetween that secures the mounting plate therein and allows the mounting plate to slide thereon, the retaining bracket including a central opening through which the mounting bracket is mounted to the bracketing mechanism

and maintaining a substantially smooth outer bottom surface of the adjustable keyboard tray.

5. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 4, and further comprising:
a thumb screw aligned to contact and lock the mounting plate in place with respect to the adjustable keyboard tray to prevent lateral movement of the adjustable keyboard tray with respect to the bracketing mechanism.

6. (Amended) The adjustable keyboard tray of claim ~~[1]~~2 or claim 3, wherein a cavity is formed between the top and the bottom plates.

7. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 6, wherein the top and the bottom plates include a series of inner walls along their opposed facing surfaces within the cavity.

8. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 7, wherein the top plate and the bottom plate are ultrasonic welded along a set of the inner walls.

9. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 7, wherein the series of inner walls within the cavity creates a pocket along a side of the adjustable keyboard tray that is aligned with an opening through the side of the adjustable keyboard tray to receive and secure therein a mouse bracket which supports a mouse platform.

10. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 9, wherein the mouse bracket is releasably secured in the pocket by a tab which extends out from one of the inner walls that creates the pocket and is received in a slot on the mouse bracket.

12. (Amended) The adjustable keyboard tray of claim ~~[11]~~13 or claim 14, wherein the mouse bracket is releasably secured in the pocket by a tab which extends out from one of the inner walls that creates the pocket and is received in a slot on the mouse bracket.

13. (Amended) [The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 11] An adjustable keyboard tray for use with a bracketing mechanism that is secured to and translates in and out from a horizontal surface, the adjustable keyboard tray comprising:

a top plate made of polymeric material;

a bottom plate made of polymeric material that is secured to the top plate;

a cavity between the top plate and the bottom plate;

a series of inner walls that extend from the top and the bottom plates along their opposed facing surfaces, wherein the inner walls create an inner pocket along a side of the adjustable keyboard tray;

an opening along the side the adjustable keyboard tray that is aligned with the pocket to provide access therein;

a mouse bracket that supports a mouse platform, wherein the mouse bracket is inserted into the opening and is received and secured in the pocket; and

a mounting plate that secures the adjustable keyboard tray to the bracketing mechanism, wherein the mounting plate is secured to the bottom plate of the adjustable keyboard tray in a recessed mounting area to maintain a substantially smooth outer surface along the bottom plate.

14. (Amended) [The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 11] An adjustable keyboard tray for use with a bracketing mechanism that is secured to and translates in and out from a horizontal surface, the adjustable keyboard tray comprising:

a top plate made of polymeric material;

a bottom plate made of polymeric material that is secured to the top plate;

a cavity between the top plate and the bottom plate;

a series of inner walls that extend from the top and the bottom plates along their opposed facing surfaces, wherein the inner walls create an inner pocket along a side of the adjustable keyboard tray;

an opening along the side the adjustable keyboard tray that is aligned with the pocket to provide access therein;
a mouse bracket that supports a mouse platform, wherein the mouse bracket is inserted into the opening and is received and secured in the pocket; and
a mounting plate that secures the adjustable keyboard tray to the bracketing mechanism, wherein the mounting plate is secured to the adjustable keyboard tray by a retaining bracket, such that the adjustable keyboard tray can slide in a lateral direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of translation by the bracketing mechanism.

15. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 14, wherein the retaining bracket is mounted to a recessed mounting area formed along a bottom surface of the bottom plate creating a channel therebetween that secures the mounting plate therein and allows the mounting plate to slide thereon, the retaining bracket including a central opening through which the mounting bracket is mounted to the bracketing mechanism and maintaining a substantially smooth outer bottom surface of the adjustable keyboard tray.

16. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 15, and further comprising:
a thumb screw aligned to contact and lock the mounting plate in place with respect to the adjustable keyboard tray to prevent lateral movement of the adjustable keyboard tray with respect to the bracketing mechanism.

17. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 11, wherein the top plate is secured to the bottom plate by ultrasonic welding along a set of the inner walls.

19. (Amended) The adjustable keyboard tray of claim [18]20, wherein the top plate is secured to the bottom plate by ultrasonic welding along a set of the inner walls.

20. (Amended) [The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 18] An adjustable keyboard tray for use with a center mount bracketing mechanism that is secured to and translates in and out from a horizontal surface, the adjustable keyboard tray comprising:

a top plate made of polymeric material;

a bottom plate made of polymeric material that is secured to the top plate;

a retaining bracket that is secured to the bottom plate in a manner that creates a channel between the retaining bracket and the bottom plate;

a central opening in the retaining bracket; and

a mounting plate that is secured in the channel between the retaining bracket and the bottom plate, wherein the mounting plate secures the adjustable keyboard tray to the bracketing mechanism through the central opening in the retaining bracket and slides along the channel such that the adjustable keyboard tray can slide in a lateral direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of translation by the bracketing mechanism, wherein the retaining bracket is mounted to a recessed mounting area formed along a bottom surface of the bottom plate to maintain a substantially smooth outer bottom surface of the adjustable keyboard tray.

21. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 20, and further comprising:

a thumb screw aligned to contact and lock the mounting plate in place with respect to the adjustable keyboard tray to prevent lateral movement of the adjustable keyboard tray with respect to the bracketing mechanism.

22. (Amended) The adjustable keyboard tray of claim [18]20, wherein a cavity is formed between the top and the bottom plates.

23. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 22, wherein the top and the bottom plates include a series of inner walls along their opposed facing surfaces within the cavity.

24. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 23, wherein the top plate and the bottom plate are ultrasonic welded along a set of the inner walls.

25. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 23, wherein the series of inner walls within the cavity creates a pocket along a side of the adjustable keyboard tray that is aligned with an opening through the side of the adjustable keyboard tray to receive and secure therein a mouse bracket which supports a mouse platform.

26. The adjustable keyboard tray of claim 25, wherein the mouse bracket is releasably secured in the pocket by a tab which extends out from one of the inner walls that creates the pocket and is received in a slot on the mouse bracket.

27. (Amended) A method of repositioning an adjustable keyboard tray in a lateral direction substantially perpendicular to a center mount bracketing mechanism that is secured to a horizontal surface at one end and the adjustable keyboard tray at an opposite end, the method comprising:

pulling [out] the adjustable keyboard out from under the horizontal surface, causing the bracketing mechanism to translate out from [its storage position] under the horizontal surface, wherein the adjustable keyboard tray has a top and a bottom plate that are bonded together;

loosening a [thumb] screw that passes through a through hole in the top plate and is retained in a threaded bore formed in the bottom plate, so that the [thumb] screw does not [contact a mounting plate that is secured in and slides along a pair of channels created between the bottom plate and a retaining bracket that is secured thereto] prevent lateral movement of the adjustable keyboard tray;

repositioning the adjustable keyboard tray in [a] the lateral direction [that is substantially perpendicular to the bracketing mechanism] until the adjustable keyboard tray is in [an alternative] a desired position; and

tightening the [thumb] screw [down] by driving it through the threaded bore until it [contacts the mounting plate securing the mounting plate in place with respect to the adjustable keyboard tray] prevents lateral movement of the adjustable keyboard tray.